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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

FEBRUARY, 1986

RELEASE DATE:
March 25, 1986

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1986				REVISED JANUARY 1986				REVISED FEBRUARY 1985			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,958.7	1,699.8	258.9	13.2	1,950.2	1,699.1	251.1	12.9	1,951.5	1,726.4	225.1	11.5
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	58.2	51.8	6.4	11.0	57.5	51.2	6.3	10.9	57.7	51.7	6.0	10.4
Baton Rouge 2/	256.9	225.8	31.1	12.1	258.0	227.1	30.9	12.0	255.4	230.7	24.7	9.7
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	76.6	65.6	11.0	14.3	77.0	66.8	10.2	13.3	78.8	69.5	9.3	11.8
Lafayette 4/	111.1	99.4	11.7	10.5	110.4	99.3	11.1	10.1	106.6	97.1	9.5	8.9
Lake Charles 5/	73.6	62.3	11.3	15.4	72.9	62.2	10.7	14.7	75.6	63.7	11.9	15.8
Monroe 6/	67.2	59.4	7.8	11.6	67.4	59.7	7.7	11.4	66.5	59.9	6.6	9.9
New Orleans 7/	588.9	523.7	65.2	11.1	590.0	525.1	64.9	11.0	603.9	538.5	65.4	10.8
Shreveport 8/	166.0	144.3	21.7	13.1	166.6	145.3	21.3	12.8	165.7	151.6	14.1	8.5

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,567,900 for February, a decrease of 7,400 from January's level and 14,400 below the comparable period a year ago. A downturn in the mining and trade segments contributed to the decrease in nonmanufacturing employment. February payrolls for the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing were down from January's level.

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Estimated employment in the durable goods portion of manufacturing rose by 200 workers from January's level. Less business was responsible for the payroll cutbacks in the machinery, except electrical, industry. An increase in business for ship and boatbuilding and repairing firms was responsible for the rise in employment in transportation equipment manufacturing.

Nondurable goods employment for February was estimated at 92,700, a decrease of 1,600 from the January estimate and 2,500 below the year ago figure. A decrease in production of preserved fruits and vegetables was a factor in the drop of employment for the food and kindred products industry. Layoffs in the apparel and other textile products industry resulted in the decrease of February payrolls for this segment of nondurable goods employment. Payrolls for paper and allied products and printing and publishing fell from last month. A labor dispute in the petroleum refining segment of petroleum and coal products also contributed to the decline in nondurable goods employment.

February's nonmanufacturing level was estimated at 1,399,300. This was 6,000 below January's revised figure and 3,800 below the comparable period a year ago. Mining employment was down as a result of a slowdown in the exploration for oil and gas. Construction moved down due in large part to payroll cutbacks in general building construction. Payrolls for transportation and public utilities fell mostly as a result of less activity at the state's ports. Retail trade employment for February was down due to less business for general merchandise, apparel and accessories stores and for eating and drinking establishments. Wholesale trade fell due to a layoff in the durable goods segment of trade. Employment losses at banks and credit agencies other than banks were significant in the downturn of finance, insurance and real estate. Increases in educational services and miscellaneous services contributed to the rise for services employment. Government employment for February was higher due to state and local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 118,900 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $432.85 in January to $431.39 in February, a decrease of $1.46 and a decrease of $1.86 from the year ago figure. Average hourly earnings were one cent lower in February than last month, but eight cents higher than February last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.4 for the current month, down by 0.1 from January's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in Louisiana, at 258,900 for February, was up by 7,800 from January's level of 251,100. The current month's unemployment rate was 13.2 percent compared to 12.9 percent last month and 11.5 percent in February of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for February was 7.8 percent compared to 7.3 percent in January and 7.8 percent in February of last year. Louisiana's civilian labor force increased from 1,950,200 in January to 1,958,700 in February. Total employment in February was up by 700 from last month's figure.

The unemployment rate for the state is expected to rise during the next month. Mining employment will probably suffer due to lower oil and gas prices. Retail trade will probably continue its downward trend from the holiday season.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change from January 1986	Net Change from February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,567.9	1,575.3	1,582.3	- 7.4	-14.4
MINING	76.7	79.7	82.8	- 3.0	- 6.1
Oil and Gas Extraction	73.1	76.2	80.0	- 3.1	- 6.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.6	3.5	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	95.0	96.7	103.0	- 1.7	- 8.0
MANUFACTURING	168.6	170.0	179.2	- 1.4	-10.6
Durable Goods	75.9	75.7	84.0	+ 0.2	- 8.1
Lumber and Wood Products	12.8	12.7	13.1	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Furniture and Fixtures	0.5	0.6	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6.7	6.6	7.6	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.3	3.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.9	12.9	13.1	0	- 0.2
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.5	9.7	10.1	- 0.2	- 0.6
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.5	7.6	11.4	- 0.1	- 3.9
Transportation Equipment	20.1	19.8	22.0	+ 0.3	- 1.9
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Nondurable Goods	92.7	94.3	95.2	- 1.6	- 2.5
Food & Kindred Products	20.1	20.5	19.4	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.6	9.0	8.8	- 0.4	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	11.3	11.5	11.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	10.1	10.3	10.3	- 0.2	- 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	26.8	26.9	28.7	- 0.1	- 1.9
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.9	12.2	12.7	- 0.3	- 0.8
Petroleum Refining	11.3	11.6	11.8	- 0.3	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	110.5	112.4	114.5	- 1.9	- 4.0
Railroad Transportation	5.9	5.9	6.3	0	- 0.4
Transportation, ex. Railroads	63.6	65.4	65.9	- 1.8	- 2.3
Water Transportation	28.9	30.1	30.0	- 1.2	- 1.1
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	41.0	41.1	42.3	- 0.1	- 1.3
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	19.5	19.5	20.9	0	- 1.4
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	21.5	21.6	21.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	382.0	385.0	379.4	- 3.0	+ 2.6
Wholesale Trade	90.1	90.3	93.2	- 0.2	- 3.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	51.6	51.7	55.1	- 0.1	- 3.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	38.5	38.6	38.1	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	291.9	294.7	286.2	- 2.8	+ 5.7
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.4	60.6	57.8	- 2.2	+ 0.6
Food Stores	57.9	57.1	53.0	+ 0.8	+ 4.9
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.5	32.6	32.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	88.4	89.3	89.1	- 0.9	- 0.7
Other Retail Trade	54.7	55.1	54.3	- 0.4	+ 0.4

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change from January 1986	Net Change from February 1985
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	85.2	85.5	84.0	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Banking	27.5	27.6	27.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	321.0	320.7	314.1	+ 0.3	+ 6.9
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	23.8	23.8	24.4	0	- 0.6
Personal Services	15.9	15.8	15.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Business Services	57.6	57.8	56.6	- 0.2	+ 1.0
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	10.5	10.6	10.0	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Miscellaneous Repair Services	7.2	7.2	7.3	0	- 0.1
Amusement & Recreation Services	9.2	9.2	8.7	0	+ 0.5
Health Services	91.3	91.2	89.1	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
Legal Services	13.6	13.6	13.1	0	+ 0.5
Educational Services	25.7	25.5	23.0	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
Social Services	18.0	18.0	17.8	0	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	24.7	24.7	25.8	0	- 1.1
Miscellaneous Services	17.4	17.1	17.4	+ 0.3	0
GOVERNMENT	328.9	325.3	325.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.6
Federal	35.6	35.6	34.4	0	+ 1.2
State and Local	293.3	289.7	290.9	+ 3.6	+ 2.4
State	107.2	104.1	104.9	+ 3.1	+ 2.3
Local	186.1	185.6	186.0	+ 0.5	+ 0.1

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 02 86				REVISED 01 86			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,400	19,950	3,450	14.7	22,800	19,600	3,200	14.0
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	10,150	8,425	1,725	17.1	10,225	8,575	1,650	16.0
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	8,700	6,425	2,275	26.2	8,325	6,200	2,125	25.6
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	16,800	13,200	3,600	21.4	16,225	12,875	3,350	20.7
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,375	11,500	1,875	14.0	13,325	11,625	1,700	12.8
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,600	5,625	975	14.8	6,575	5,600	975	14.7
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,700	4,000	700	14.8	4,625	3,975	650	14.2
CAMERON (CAMERON)	5,025	4,450	575	11.4	5,000	4,425	575	11.3
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,975	3,625	1,350	27.2	4,800	3,550	1,250	26.2
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,500	6,725	775	10.4	7,375	6,675	700	9.4
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,575	8,200	2,375	22.5	10,200	8,050	2,150	21.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	14,475	12,225	2,250	15.6	14,200	12,025	2,175	15.4
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,850	3,575	1,275	26.3	4,600	3,475	1,125	24.4
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,050	6,825	1,225	15.2	8,100	6,875	1,225	15.0
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,550	12,025	2,525	17.4	14,175	11,875	2,300	16.2
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,775	6,875	1,900	21.7	8,525	6,750	1,775	21.0
COLFAX (GRANT)	7,200	6,100	1,100	15.1	7,150	6,025	1,125	15.8
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	29,200	24,350	4,850	16.6	28,850	24,200	4,650	16.1
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	12,450	10,100	2,350	18.8	12,300	10,025	2,275	18.5
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,925	6,175	750	10.8	6,875	6,150	725	10.5
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,775	10,775	2,000	15.7	12,500	10,575	1,925	15.4
JENA (LASALLE)	7,250	6,425	825	11.3	7,200	6,450	750	10.6
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,250	17,025	1,225	6.8	17,900	16,925	975	5.5
TALLULAH (MADISON)	6,725	5,350	1,375	20.5	6,525	5,225	1,300	20.0
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	13,575	10,750	2,825	20.8	13,275	10,575	2,700	20.3
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,225	14,875	2,350	13.6	16,900	14,675	2,225	13.2
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	10,500	9,325	1,175	11.2	10,325	9,150	1,175	11.5
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	8,500	6,550	1,950	22.9	8,325	6,425	1,900	22.8
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,375	3,800	575	13.1	4,300	3,750	550	12.8
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,600	7,000	1,600	18.7	8,425	6,825	1,600	18.9
MANY (SABINE)	10,100	8,650	1,450	14.4	9,850	8,500	1,350	13.7
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	3,400	2,925	475	14.1	3,325	2,850	475	14.6
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	10,250	8,475	1,775	17.3	10,175	8,400	1,775	17.5
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	35,450	28,550	6,900	19.5	34,800	28,175	6,625	19.0
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	31,600	25,600	6,000	19.0	30,900	25,350	5,550	18.0
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	38,600	32,500	6,100	15.8	38,300	32,175	6,125	16.0
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,350	2,800	550	16.6	3,150	2,675	475	15.3
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,400	7,125	1,275	15.3	-8,375	7,125	1,250	15.1
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	22,200	18,275	3,925	17.7	21,650	17,975	3,675	17.0
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,075	16,175	1,900	10.5	17,725	16,025	1,700	9.5
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,525	14,900	2,625	15.1	17,425	14,775	2,650	15.3
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,950	16,975	2,975	14.9	19,800	16,925	2,875	14.5
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	5,325	3,650	1,675	31.5	5,075	3,700	1,375	26.9
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,350	3,725	625	14.3	4,350	3,700	650	14.8
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,575	4,925	650	11.6	5,575	4,925	650	11.5

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	February '86*	January '86**	February '85**	February '86*	January '86**	February '85**	February '86*	January '86**	February '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$431.39	$432.85	$433.25	41.4	41.5	41.9	$10.42	$10.43	$10.34
Durable Goods	363.23	375.34	394.96	38.6	40.1	41.4	9.41	9.36	9.54
Lumber & Wood Products	298.75	295.96	295.77	38.4	39.2	39.7	7.78	7.55	7.45
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	361.76	369.40	355.21	38.0	38.6	39.6	9.52	9.57	8.97
Fabricated Metal Products	348.89	384.89	423.58	37.8	40.6	44.4	9.23	9.48	9.54
Machinery, ex. Electrical	376.36	393.05	397.47	39.7	40.9	40.6	9.48	9.61	9.79
Electric & Electronic Equip.	460.00	443.77	424.50	40.6	39.8	40.7	11.33	11.15	10.43
Transportation Equipment	395.77	413.71	456.64	37.8	40.8	41.4	10.47	10.14	11.03
Nondurable Goods	488.14	481.53	472.34	41.9	42.5	42.4	11.65	11.33	11.14
Food & Kindred Products	298.70	308.48	311.92	38.1	39.6	40.3	7.84	7.79	7.74
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	211.10	207.59	216.76	37.9	38.3	39.7	5.57	5.42	5.46
Paper & Allied Products	590.52	554.22	543.97	44.3	43.4	42.9	13.33	12.77	12.68
Printing & Publishing	363.44	400.18	361.14	37.2	40.3	39.0	9.77	9.93	9.26
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	662.69	653.18	638.17	43.2	43.2	43.8	15.34	15.12	14.57
Petroleum & Coal Products	727.65	720.11	697.25	49.5	49.8	47.4	14.70	14.46	14.71
Petroleum Refining	748.33	741.17	729.81	50.7	50.8	48.3	14.76	14.59	15.11
MINING	521.18	544.73	524.86	46.0	47.7	47.2	11.33	11.42	11.12
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	519.57	514.16	488.38	41.4	41.1	39.9	12.55	12.51	12.24
BANKING	257.84	256.23	246.66	40.1	38.3	37.6	6.43	6.69	6.56

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 118,900 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 100,800 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.2	45.0	44.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.5	3.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.3	2.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.7	1.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.7	2.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.1	10.9	10.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Retail Trade	8.9	8.7	8.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	1.9	1.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.5	2.4	2.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.3	3.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	10.1	9.9	9.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.1	13.1	13.0	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.6	2.6	2.5	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.5	10.5	10.5	0	0
State	5.4	5.4	5.4	0	0
Local	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical area was estimated at 45,200 during February. This estimate was 200 more than January and 700 more than February of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during February totaled 3,400. This estimate was 100 less than the previous month and 100 less than February of last year. The reduction occurred in durable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 41,800 during February. This was 300 more than January and 800 more than last February. Changes since last month reflect slight losses in construction and general merchandise under retail trade. Gains since the previous month was in services, eating and drinking places and other retail trade. Compared to February of last year employment gains were in retail trade, services and government.

During the next thirty days total employment should reveal gains with outdoor related employment increasing and retail trade employment will benefit from Easter sales. Due to the latter, there should be a decline in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	212.0	213.1	215.3	- 1.1	- 3.3
MANUFACTURING	20.2	20.4	21.3	- 0.2	- 1.1
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	15.9	16.1	17.0	- 0.2	- 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.8	1.7	- 0.1	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	11.5	11.6	12.5	- 0.1	- 1.0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	20.2	20.6	21.4	- 0.4	- 1.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.0	10.2	10.4	- 0.2	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	50.7	51.3	52.0	- 0.6	- 1.3
Wholesale Trade	10.9	10.9	11.4	0	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.7	7.7	8.0	0	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.4	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	39.8	40.4	40.6	- 0.6	- 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.0	14.0	13.6	0	+ 0.4
Banking	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
SERVICES	41.3	41.3	40.0	0	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	54.3	54.0	55.4	+ 0.3	- 1.1
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.1	51.8	53.3	+ 0.3	- 1.2
State	31.2	31.2	31.8	0	- 0.6
Local	20.9	20.6	21.5	+ 0.3	- 0.6

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$519.66	$506.69	$546.88	42.7	41.6	43.3	$12.17	$12.18	$12.63
Petro-Chemicals	691.19	653.95	688.73	47.8	45.1	46.1	14.46	14.50	14.94

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,400 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 212,000 during February was down 1,100 from January's revised estimate. Manufacturing was down 200 and nonmanufacturing was down 900.

Employment in manufacturing at 20,200 during February was down 200 from January's revised estimate. Durable goods had no change during the current period. Nondurable goods was down due to less business in commercial printing, in service industries for the printing trade, in plastic materials and synthetic resins, synthetic rubber, synthetic and other man-made fibers, except glass, and in industrial organic chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing industries was down during the current period. Construction was down due to less business in general building contractors - nonresidential buildings and in heavy construction, except highway and street construction. Transportation and public utilities were down due to a seasonal decline in arrangement of transportation and less business in radio and television broadcasting and in telephone communication (wire or radio). Retail trade was down due to seasonal declines in department stores, in gasoline service stations and less business in lumber and other building material dealers, in radio, television, and music stores, and in eating and drinking places. Government was up due to increased employment in local government.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,400 production workers in all manufacturing was $519.66, up $12.97 over January's revised average. Average weekly hours were up 1.1 hours and average hourly earnings were down one cent during the current period. More overtime worked by lower paid employees contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 256,900 during January, down 1,300 from January's revised estimate and down 4,900 from February of last year. Unemployment at 31,100 was up 200 over January's revised estimate. February's unemployment rate was 12.1 percent, up from January's revised 12.0 percent. The statewide rate was 13.2 percent during February. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 256,900 during the current period.

Seasonal gains in retail trade during the coming month should increase employment. Unemployment rate expected to remain high.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 2,010 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 465 applicants in jobs during February.

The consumer price index for January, 1986 for all urban consumers was 328.4 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 324.3 using base period 1967=100.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.8	60.2	61.7	- 1.4	- 2.9
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.5	4.9	- 0.2	- 0.6
Durable Goods	2.9	3.1	3.4	- 0.2	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
MINING	7.6	7.8	8.7	- 0.2	- 1.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.1	2.5	2.9	- 0.4	- 0.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.1	7.3	7.6	- 0.2	- 0.5
Water Transportation	4.7	4.8	4.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.7	15.3	15.2	- 0.6	- 0.5
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.6	3.5	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	11.1	11.7	11.7	- 0.6	- 0.6
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.5	3.7	- 0.2	- 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.6	2.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICES	9.0	9.0	8.8	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	11.3	11.2	11.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	10.8	10.7	10.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State	3.1	3.1	3.1	0	0
Local	7.7	7.6	7.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in February moved down to 58,800, a level 1,400 below January. The decrease was spread through most industry divisions. Since February 1985, total nonagricultural wage and salary employment lost 2,900 workers. Especially negative to the local economy was a loss of 1,100 in mining. Sizable decreases were also shown by construction, retail trade, and transportation and public utilities.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,300 in February, down 200 from last month. The change was due to decreases reported by firms in other durable goods sector. The nondurable goods sector held steady over the month. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 600.

Retail trade made further seasonal downward adjustments. Wholesale trade held steady. Mining showed a decrease that reflected seasonal trends along with problems of a longer range nature. Construction fell to a lower level, partly revealing the effects of a troubled local economy. Transportation and public utilities tapered off. More favorably, finance, insurance, and real estate edged up. Local government pushed up slightly. Services held steady.

Estimated unemployment in February rose to 11,000, a level 800 above January. The decrease in employment was mainly responsible. Unemployment presently comprises 14.3 percent of the labor force compared to 13.3 percent in January and 11.8 percent in February of last year. The February rate was somewhat higher than the state rate of 13.2 percent, and much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.8 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 3,092.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show an overall gain. Mining and construction will benefit from better weather conditions. However, much will depend on developments in the oil and gas industry. It is predicted that unemployment will continue to increase.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	98.5	99.2	97.8	- 0.7	+ 0.7
MANUFACTURING	5.9	6.0	6.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.0	2.1	2.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
MINING	17.0	17.5	17.7	- 0.5	- 0.7
CONSTRUCTION	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.9	26.0	25.3	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	6.4	6.5	6.4	- 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	19.5	19.5	18.9	0	+ 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.7	3.7	3.3	0	+ 0.4
Food Stores	3.1	3.0	3.1	+ 0.1	0
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Other Retail Trade	10.8	10.9	10.6	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.8	3.9	4.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
Banking	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
SERVICES	19.6	19.5	19.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	13.9	13.9	12.8	0	+ 1.1
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	13.0	13.0	11.9	0	+ 1.1
State	5.4	5.4	4.5	0	+ 0.9
Local	7.6	7.6	7.4	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette was estimated at 98,500 for February, a decrease of 700 below January's level but 700 above the February figure a year ago. The largest change was in the nonmanufacturing segment.

Nonmanufacturing showed a 600 decrease from January but a 900 increase was noted from the same period of time a year ago.

Mining reflected a 500 decrease from the previous month and a 700 decrease from February of 1985.

The remainder of the segments of the economy showed little or no change from comparative periods of time.

The decrease in drilling activities continues as the price of oil drops per barrel. This has produced increased unemployment and there appears to be no end in sight in the near future.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.9	58.0	58.4	- 0.1	- 0.5
MANUFACTURING	8.9	9.1	9.3	- 0.2	- 0.4
Durable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Nondurable Goods	8.1	8.3	8.5	- 0.2	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.4	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.3	7.4	7.6	- 0.1	- 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	2.2	2.0	2.4	+ 0.2	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.6	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.4	14.6	14.6	- 0.2	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.0	3.2	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	11.4	11.6	11.4	- 0.2	0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.2	2.3	2.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.6	3.7	3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.0	10.7	10.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.6	0.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	11.0	11.1	10.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.3	10.4	10.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
State	3.7	3.8	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Local	6.6	6.6	6.4	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Employment on area nonfarm payrolls in the Lake Charles area decreased 100 from the January level to the current estimate of 57,900. The decrease continued into a comparison of the same period of time a year ago. The figure of 58,400 went down to 57,900.

Manufacturing showed a decrease of 200 from the previous month and 300 lower than February of 1985. The decrease was noted in nondurable goods.

Nonmanufacturing showed very little change from both periods of time.

Trade reflected a 200 decrease from the previous month and from the same period of time a year ago.

The economy of Lake Charles does not appear to be any brighter than it has been because of the oil situation.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	54.7	55.0	55.3	- 0.3	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	7.6	7.5	7.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.1	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.5	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
MINING	0.5	0.7	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.7	3.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.9	16.1	15.0	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade	4.2	4.2	4.1	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	11.7	11.9	10.9	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.6	3.8	3.0	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.9	2.8	3.2	+ 0.1	- 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.4	4.4	4.1	0	+ 0.3
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	11.2	11.2	10.9	0	+ 0.3
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.5	0	+ 0.2
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.5	4.5	4.5	0	0
GOVERNMENT	8.9	8.7	11.2	+ 0.2	- 2.3
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	8.3	8.1	10.6	+ 0.2	- 2.3
State	3.9	3.8	4.9	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Local	4.4	4.3	5.7	+ 0.1	- 1.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total employment in the Monroe area, estimated at 54,700, was 300 below the January estimate of 55,000.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,600, was up by 100 from the January estimate. The minimal gain was in nondurable goods.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 47,100, was 400 below the January estimate. Mining was down 200, reflecting the cut back in drilling in the area. Construction, estimated at 3,500 was down by 200. Wholesale and retail trade was down by 200 to an estimated 15,900. The loss was in retail trade. Government, estimated at 8,900, was up by 200. All other segments were unchanged.

Unemployment is expected to remain high for the area. Employment should inch upward as spring usually brings better weather conditions for outside employment.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	522.0	525.7	532.2	- 3.7	-10.2
MANUFACTURING	43.2	43.6	46.1	- 0.4	- 2.9
Durable Goods	21.3	21.4	23.9	- 0.1	- 2.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.8	1.8	2.5	0	- 0.7
Fabricated Metal Products	2.5	2.7	3.1	- 0.2	- 0.6
Machinery	2.8	2.9	3.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	12.0	11.8	13.1	+ 0.2	- 1.1
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.4	7.2	8.5	+ 0.2	- 1.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	21.9	22.2	22.2	- 0.3	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	6.3	6.5	6.3	- 0.2	0
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.6	3.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.3	4.3	4.5	0	- 0.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.4	4.6	4.6	- 0.2	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	18.8	19.1	19.6	- 0.3	- 0.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	18.3	18.6	19.1	- 0.3	- 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	25.2	25.5	27.4	- 0.3	- 2.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	44.6	45.0	45.0	- 0.4	- 0.4
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	2.1	0	- 0.2
Water Transportation	13.8	14.0	13.7	- 0.2	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	139.9	141.6	138.5	- 1.7	+ 1.4
Wholesale Trade	34.2	34.4	35.9	- 0.2	- 1.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	20.3	20.4	22.0	- 0.1	- 1.7
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.9	14.0	13.9	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	105.7	107.2	102.6	- 1.5	+ 3.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	32.7	32.6	33.2	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Banking	7.4	7.4	7.6	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	132.1	132.5	132.8	- 0.4	- 0.7
GOVERNMENT	85.5	85.8	89.6	- 0.3	- 4.1
Federal	15.8	15.9	14.9	- 0.1	+ 0.9
State and Local	69.7	69.9	74.7	- 0.2	- 5.0
State	21.9	21.9	22.2	0	- 0.3
Local	47.8	48.0	52.5	- 0.2	- 4.7

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$419.82	$435.94	$430.36	38.8	41.4	41.5	$10.82	$10.53	$10.37
Durable Goods	365.30	394.15	402.05	37.2	41.1	40.9	9.82	9.59	9.83
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	357.29	354.71	420.34	36.2	35.4	43.2	9.87	10.02	9.73
Fabricated Metal Products	281.72	390.93	450.60	33.3	41.9	48.4	8.46	9.33	9.31
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	389.94	386.48	392.27	38.8	42.1	38.8	10.05	9.18	10.11
Nondurable Goods	473.89	475.90	460.57	40.4	41.6	42.1	11.73	11.44	10.94
Food & Kindred Products	324.99	316.09	334.10	38.1	37.9	41.4	8.53	8.34	8.07
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	128.62	150.20	126.52	23.6	28.5	23.3	5.45	5.27	5.43
Paper & Allied Products	431.87	438.52	382.01	45.7	46.8	46.7	9.45	9.37	8.18
Printing & Publishing	400.61	408.37	370.66	42.8	44.1	43.1	9.36	9.26	8.60
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	693.79	682.84	692.21	42.8	43.8	45.6	16.21	15.59	15.18

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 28,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans LMA in February moved down to 522,000 a level 3,700 below January. Changes reflected seasonal trends along with problems of a longer range nature. Almost every industry division showed a decrease. Since February of 1985, total nonagricultural wage and salary employment lost 10,200 workers, with every major sector of the economy hurt by a reduction in employment.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,200 in February, down 400 from the previous month. Ship and boatbuilding and repairing added workers, and printing and publishing showed a minor increase. A drop in fabricated metal products and machinery was due to less business. Mostly seasonal factors caused a reduction in food and kindred products. The drop in petroleum and coal products was due to a labor dispute. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing has lost 2,900 employees.

Retail trade made further seasonal downward adjustments with the downturn spread through every industry. Wholesale trade decreased in both durable goods and nondurable goods. Mining exhibited a reduction in employment by oil and gas field services. Construction was lowered by decreases in building construction and work by special trade contractors which were partly offset by an increase in heavy construction. Transportation showed losses in water transportation and motor freight transportation. In government, both the local and federal sectors effected layoffs, reflecting many problems concerning costs and funding. Services were hurt by sizable decreases in business services and amusement services, with a seasonal upturn in private educational services preventing a larger overall loss. Finance, insurance, and real estate displayed no important change.

Area production workers earned an average $419.82 a week in February, down $16.12 from last month's average. The decrease of 2 hours 36 minutes in average weekly hours was not offset by the increase of $0.29 in average hourly earnings. Compared to one year ago weekly earnings went down $10.54.

Estimated unemployment in February pushed up to 65,200, a level 300 above January. The decrease in employment was mostly responsible. Unemployment presently comprises 11.1 percent of the labor force compared to 11.0 percent in January and 10.8 percent in February of last year. The February rate was lower than the state rate of 13.2 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 7.8 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 15,709. About 44.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; approximately 33.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show some seasonal gain. Mining and construction will benefit from more favorable weather conditions. Services will probably display a small overall seasonal upturn. Unemployment is expected to increase as the area wrestles with many long range economic problems.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	February 1986*	January 1986**	February 1985**	Net Change From January 1986	Net Change From February 1985
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	134.8	136.3	141.1	- 1.5	- 6.3
MANUFACTURING	19.0	19.2	23.2	- 0.2	- 4.2
Durable Goods	14.2	14.3	18.4	- 0.1	- 4.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Metals and Machinery	8.4	8.5	12.7	- 0.1	- 4.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.1	2.1	2.4	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.3	6.4	10.3	- 0.1	- 4.0
Other Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Good	4.8	4.9	4.8	- 0.1	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.4	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
MINING	4.6	4.8	5.0	- 0.2	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	7.4	7.7	7.9	- 0.3	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.2	8.2	8.9	0	- 0.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.1	33.1	33.1	- 1.0	- 1.0
Wholesale Trade	8.5	8.6	8.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Retail Trade	23.6	24.5	24.4	- 0.9	- 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	8.0	8.0	7.9	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	28.8	29.1	29.2	- 0.3	- 0.4
GOVERNMENT	26.7	26.2	25.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.8
Federal	4.4	4.4	4.3	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	22.3	21.8	21.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
State	7.8	7.4	6.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
Local	14.5	14.4	14.8	+ 0.1	- 0.3

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**	Feb. '86*	January '86**	Feb. '85**
All MANUFACTURING	$372.11	$373.97	$448.51	37.1	36.7	41.8	$10.03	$10.19	$10.73
Lumber and Wood Products	235.60	241.54	208.68	40.0	38.4	37.6	5.89	6.29	5.55
Metals and Machinery	395.85	398.66	420.93	39.0	39.2	41.8	10.15	10.17	10.07
Food and Kindred Products	309.17	299.41	290.29	40.1	39.5	40.6	7.71	7.58	7.15
Printing and Publishing	273.83	274.52	257.44	29.7	30.2	29.9	9.22	9.09	8.61
Petroleum and Coal Products	538.87	520.30	440.42	42.7	43.0	38.0	12.62	12.10	11.59

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport area is estimated at 134,800, down from 136,300 in January and 141,100 one year ago. The total manufacturing employment is 19,000, slightly less than the revised January estimate of 19,200, and a substantial decline from 23,200 in February, 1985, caused primarily by reduced production of communications equipment. The nonmanufacturing employment estimate of 115,800 is 1,300 less than the previous month and 2,100 less than the year ago estimate.

The manufacturing employment total of 19,000 is 200 below the estimate for the previous month. This decline was divided between metals and machinery in durable goods manufacturing, and printing and publishing in nondurable goods.

In nonmanufacturing the employment total dropped from 117,100 in January to 115,800 in February. The most significant loss was a 900 reduction in retail trade. Construction employment fell from 7,700 to 7,400, while mining declined from 4,800 to 4,600.

During the past month services industries employment fell to 28,800, down 300 from the January figure. The only employment gains from January to February were in state and local government.

This labor area has an estimated 13,500 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of $372.11, down from $373.97 in January. The average weekly hours increased from 36.7 to 37.1, while the average hourly earnings moved down from $10.19 in January to $10.03 in February.

The civilian labor force in the Shreveport area is estimated at 166,000, including 144,300 employed and 21,700 unemployed. The unemployment rate is 13.1 percent, compared to 13.2 percent statewide and a national rate of 7.8 percent.

The outlook for this area does not appear much brighter within the next few months. Total unemployment will likely remain above the 20,000 estimate. Payroll reductions continue in oil and gas and related industries. The opening of the 1986 racing season in April will cause additional hiring in the services sector and help stimulate retail trade in the area.

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